

**1 SAMUEL 2023**  
**Compromising Truth**  
**1 Samuel 27**

The TRUTH . . . the WHOLE TRUTH . . . and NOTHING BUT the TRUTH. Famous line. Not so popular concept. We love . . . PARTS of the truth. We love half-truth. John Ortberg wrote, “We want to know the truth about ourselves. But we want VERY much NOT to know the truth about ourselves.” True. I was 5’6” tall and 185 pounds the last time I checked. I want very much to believe that is still true. Don’t question me about it! I can’t HANDLE the truth! We believe the truth when we LIKE the truth, but when the truth does not make our lives instantly EASIER or BETTER, we look elsewhere. Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” Great question! **[Of course, Pilate was looking at the Way, the Truth, and the Life when he asked this!]**

DEFINITIONS OF TRUTH: “The Actual state of a matter. Conformity with fact or reality. A verified or indisputable fact, proposition, principle, or the like.”

Sounds easy enough. But what about those times when you are faced with truths that CONTRADICT one another? Which is true? What will you believe? If Jesus had answered Pilate, there is NO WAY that he would have believed! And yet . . .

We are now reaching another chapter in David’s life. **He has been running from Saul for probably more than 8 and ½ years now.** He has just confronted Saul for a second time in a very dangerous setting, only to be delivered by the power of God once again (God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Saul’s men). Saul promises not to chase him anymore and tells him to come home. David does not buy it! Saul is not known for his love of speaking truth! So, David wants to make a change. Part of the truth is that Saul is making his life miserable, and he is constantly in danger. Another part of the truth is that Israel is a small nation, and there are a limited number of hiding places for David. These are the parts of the truth that David saw and felt. **But it is not all that is true.** But David began to FOCUS only on those partial truths that confirmed what he saw and felt. This led him down a dangerous path. **1 Samuel 27:1 NIV**

**1 But David thought to himself, "One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand."**

David is tired. David is sick of running from Saul in Israel. David is probably sick and tired of saving Hebrew towns and villages, only to be BETRAYED by them when they decided to hand him over to Saul after he rescued them! ENOUGH! David decides that this plan is not working, and it is time for HIM to come up with another plan. So, “David says to himself . . .” David decides to LISTEN to his OWN COUNSEL. **One of the most foolish things you can do is to just listen to your own advice, ESPECIALLY when you are worn out, dead tired, and hungry!** “There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of DEATH!” [Proverbs 16:25]. At least choose to get a SECOND OPINION! Apparently at this point, David did not.

**WEARINESS CAN LEAD TO FORGETFULNESS AND FAULTY THINKING.**

From an argument of SILENCE, we can probably safely conclude that David DID NOT “inquire of the Lord” about this decision. So sad. He had ABIATHAR the PRIEST with him. Abiathar had the EPHOD with him. God had been faithful to answer David every time that he sought him up to this point. Why not now?

**[How have you failed to truly seek God when faced with hard circumstances?]**

There is a point we can reach in life (repeatedly) when the PROMISES of God seem to be UNLIKELY and even IMPOSSIBLE in light of circumstances . . . **especially when those circumstances are repeating themselves over and over.** We become TIRED. We become WORN DOWN and WEARY. And then we struggle to continue to BELIEVE that God’s Word is really true. **TRUTH: Reality as GOD sees it! Every saint of God faces the struggle to believe what God says when it is contradicted by current facts.**

- Noah spent 100 years building an Ark and preaching before rain came!
- Abraham waited 25 years for he and Sarah to have a baby!
- Joseph spent 20 years in SLAVERY and PRISON before his dreams came to be.

During those seasons of DIVINE DELAY, are you struggling to trust in the Lord and stand on his truth? Are you instead beginning to “lean on your own understanding?”

**Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV**

**5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.**

David verbalizes a very FAITHLESS and FEARFUL PERSPECTIVE: **“One of these days, I WILL BE DESTROYED by the hand of Saul.”** Sounds like he has stopped believing God’s promises to him. He has relaxed his grip on truth and seems to be dissatisfied with the “sheltering wings” of God’s providential care. He has FORGOTTEN the many-faceted ways that God has DELIVERED him from his enemy, and he has sunken into self-pity and faithless fear. **Instead of REHEARSING the truth of how God has protected him every day in this chase, he starts believing the LIE that Saul is ultimately going to win this war.** So, in his fatigue and fear, he makes a self-determined, self-serving decision . . . based on PARTIAL truth.

**THE TOTAL ACCEPTANCE OF INCOMPLETE TRUTH WILL LEAD TO UNWISE COMPROMISE. 1 Samuel 27:2-4 NIV**

**2 So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maach king of Gath. 3 David and his men settled in Gath with Achish. Each man had his family with him, and David had his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, the widow of Nabal. 4 When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him.**

David decides that the “best thing he can do is to, “**escape to the land of the Philistines.**” Clever David chooses to play a dangerous game of “sleeping with the enemy” by going to the land of the Philistines and forming an ALLIANCE with Achish, the King of Gath.

David concludes that if he moves to Gath, then Saul will no longer chase and harass him. David's plan seems to work! Saul hears about David's move, and he no longer chases David. Chalk one up to David . . . maybe. But if we look ahead, we will see that David's plan has a very DARK SIDE. **1 Samuel 27:5-7 NIV**

**5** Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be assigned to me in one of the country towns, that I may live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?" **6** So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since. **7 David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months.**

**This was a danger of degrees.** David was not just changing addresses, he was moving into a place of SPIRITUAL DARKNESS. David has elsewhere acknowledged that he feels cut off from God when he is cut off from the place of public worship. David actually said this to Saul and his men the last time they spoke. **1 Samuel 26:19-20a NIV**

**19** Now let my lord the king listen to his servant's words. If the LORD has incited you against me, then may he accept an offering. If, however, people have done it, may they be cursed before the LORD! **They have driven me today from my share in the LORD's inheritance and have said, 'Go, serve other gods.'** **20** Now do not let my blood fall to the ground far from the presence of the LORD . . .

David wrote often in the Psalms about his love for worshipping God in the midst of the saints. Just as he longed for a drink of water from the well in Bethlehem, so he longed for time in the presence of the Lord with his own people. His soul is aching for the "Courts of the Lord" in the Tabernacle, and it has worn down his spirit going for so long without this spiritual satisfaction. **[How it affects me to miss church!]** He even feels like he is being asked to "go and serve other gods" when he is not free to live openly in his own country. Now he has moved into enemy territory!

**This has a long-term effect on David.** While David's move gives him a reprieve from Saul's madness for 16 months, now David faces a different kind of madness. David spends 16 months in a land of IDOLATRY where his spirit is OPPRESSED with idolatrous practices and people. He "settled in Ziklag" with his family, his men, and their families. And it troubled him! It forced him to play a dangerous game of PRETEND that DEMANDED various kinds of COMPROMISE. **You cannot dwell in a place of compromise long without it AFFECTING your SPIRIT and your behavior.** **"Righteous Lot" was POLLUTED by the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah.**

**2 Peter 2:6-9 NIV**

**6** if [God] condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; **7** and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless **8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)--** **9** if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

**The Apostle Paul was DISTRESSED by the idolatry of Athens. Acts 17:16 NIV**

**16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.**

Paul was spiritually sickened by what he saw in Athens. But when you choose to SETTLE DOWN in a compromising situation, you set yourself up to be oppressed and depressed in spirit on a regular basis. **Such was the case with Lot!** It will eventually wear down your sensitivity to sin and your commitment to godly VALUES. **[Consider how ENTERTAINMENT and SOCIAL MEDIA have affected your spiritual life!]** **Most scholars that I have read say that DAVID WROTE NO PSALMS DURING THIS PERIOD OF HIS EXILE! That makes sense.**

And this did not just affect David. His whole FAMILY and the lives of his men and their families were affected as well. We will see later just how horrible this decision was! **[Have you considered how your compromises are affecting the lives of those closest to you?]** This is not the only danger of this move.

### **COMPROMISE LEADS TO A LIFE OF DECEPTION**

**8 Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites. (From ancient times these peoples had lived in the land extending to Shur and Egypt.) 9 Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish. 10 When Achish asked, "Where did you go raiding today?" David would say, "Against the Negev of Judah" or "Against the Negev of Jerahmeel" or "Against the Negev of the Kenites." 11 He did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, for he thought, "They might inform on us and say, 'This is what David did.' " And such was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory. 12 Achish trusted David and said to himself, "He has become so obnoxious to his people, the Israelites, that he will be my servant for life."**

David had to convince Achish that he was loyal to him and obnoxious to his own people. **He purposely built a relationship on a LIE so that he could benefit from it. Have you ever known anyone that did this?** David still fought against Israel's enemies, but he could not be truthful about it to Achish. If he told the truth, Achish would figure out that David was a traitor in the midst! **This means that David had to continually live the life of an ACTOR in order to keep up appearances. He could never be himself before Achish. He had to PERFORM on a daily basis to keep up the ruse. [What a tangled web we weave . . .]**

**-Some people live like this all the time!**

On a very practical level, David was playing a very dangerous game. He was living in the MIDST of the enemy's territory, and he was attacking people that were NOT the enemies of the Philistines. **If he was CAUGHT in his lies, he was "smack dab in the middle" of his worst enemies with no place to hide. You can't play both sides for long without getting crushed in the middle!** He had jumped from the frying pan into the fire! And his family, his men, and their families, would pay the price.

Even the way that David fought against Israel's enemies during his months in Gath was corrupted by selfish motives and deceit rather than being pure obedience. He chose to kill every male and female in every village he attacked because he did not want anyone to inform on him to Achish. I believe that this is why this passage does not in any way AFFIRM David's actions during this 16-month period. It was SINFUL and SELFISH.

Our passage today ends with the statement that Achish TRUSTED David because he thought that he had cut all ties with Israel and that he would be David's SERVANT forever. **David was USING Achish, and Achish was USING David.** Ultimately, this may be the way the WORLD lives, but it is no life for a servant of the Most High God! Why would God's future king be a SERVANT of the enemy?

Once again, we are reminded that – while David was a remarkable “man after God's own heart,” he was still a very broken man. His sins were as large as his successes. He was far from PERFECT. While parts of his life can be an inspiration, he is not our MODEL. **He is a reminder why Jesus needed to come to redeem and save us. He alone is the SINLESS SAVIOR.** He came into a broken world in perfect obedience to God, and his perfection was not diminished or stained by the world he came to live in. He did not COMPROMISE when he came, he CONQUERED. I love what the Scriptures say about Jesus and how we can build our life on him. **Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV**

**2 . . . fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**

Don't let David's failures confuse your faith. He was a broken man just like us. We can learn from David's failures, but we must LEAN on Jesus alone for our strength and hope.

Let's pray.

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**Southaven Campus**  
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**Start talking**

What is the most exhausted (physically or emotionally) you have ever been?

**Start thinking.**

Why do you think people struggle with facing the truth?

**Start sharing.**

[Read 1 Samuel 27:1](#); [Proverbs 3:5-6](#). What is the danger of only “listening to your own counsel?” What did David’s inner thoughts reveal about his faith struggle at that moment? How do prolonged, repeated difficulties affect your faith?

[Read 1 Samuel 27:1-7](#); [2 Peter 2:6-9](#); [Acts 17:16](#). How was David’s move to Philistine land an unwise compromise? How does being away from church and constantly being around ungodly people (or watching questionable entertainment) affect you? [Compare this to how Lot and Paul were affected by their settings.]

[Read 1 Samuel 27:8-12](#). How is David living a life of deception, and why is that so dangerous for anyone who does it?

[Read Hebrews 12:1-3](#). How did Jesus perfectly endure temptation and suffering? How can focusing on him during times of struggle help you endure?

**Start praying.**

Pray for those in your group that are facing prolonged difficulties right now.

**Start doing.**

Pray before you make any decisions this week.